

WRITER UNCOVERS HISTORY OF FIRST WHITE MEN TO SETTLE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

John Selling First White Man to Pass Through Cumberland Gap—Guest's Station, Now Coeburn, Named in 1730

PROSPECTED FOR COAL IN 1750

Story of Swift's Silver Mine Not a Local Legend—Location Noted in Old Journal

Little is definitely known of what is now Wise county prior to 1750. Indians hunted along Powell and Clinch Rivers, and at times their long files might have been seen threading their way among the cliffs and laurels toward The Great War Path, which leads through the natural door of Cumberland Gap, the entrance to Kentucky, Ohio and the West. The Indians called this gap Quasiota. After the arrival of the white men the War Path became the Wilderness Trail, as well. The postman carried mail through the Gap from Philadelphia to the Watonga settlements below King's Meadow, now Bristol, as early as 1790.

Guest's Station Now Coeburn
John Smalling, an Augusta county weaver, is no doubt the first white man to pass through Cumberland Gap. His visit was as early as 1730. In 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker, of Albemarle, traversed Wise county looking for coal. He has left a journal describing his trip. A few months later, in the same year, Christopher Guest, a surveyor and friend of George Washington, came through Pound Gap and left a memento of his visit at what is now Coeburn. Within easy memory of people now living this place was called Guest's Station, i. e., Gist's Station. Guest was exploring unknown territory in the interest of the Ohio Company, one of the several companies striving to open the West.

Castle's Woods
A man by the name of Castle hunted on the Clinch with friendly Indians about the time of or shortly after Guest's visit. He was from Augusta county. Sometime before 1770 he brought a large party of settlers to Castle's Woods (now Castlewood) in Russell county. The settlement was named for him. No doubt all the Castles of these parts and those of eastern Kentucky are descendants of this hardy hunter. Historians have despaired of learning his first name or his ancestry, but it may be well that the oldest men now living have heard it from their great-grandfathers.

John Swift
There is a persistent tradition of buried treasure in these and adjoining mountains. More than one Wise patriarch is still searching for John Smith's hidden silver.
July 15, 1867, Dr. L. S. S. Farnsworth, of Buchanan, W. Va., found some rock inscriptions on the head of Stone Creek, bearing date of 1777, and mentioning "the battle fought for the rich mines."

The Swift mines, which were supposed to have been in Eastern Kentucky, are definitely described and located by John Swift himself in his journal, copies of which have come down to us. More than \$100,000 in silver is mentioned as having been concealed at various points along the present Kentucky-Virginia line.

The Swift journal was first printed in McWhorter's "Border Settlement", 1915, in an article by Professor William E. Connelley, secretary of the Kansas Historical Society. He got a copy of the journal when he was eleven years old from Hon. Richard Apperson, Mt. Sterling, Ky., at the close of the Civil War.

Location of Mine
The journal begins in Alexandria, Va., June 26, 1761. It recounts the various visits to the mines, how long Swift and his companions, Jefferson and Munday, stayed at the mines, where they hid their treasure, and gives detailed description of the country, even to latitude and longitude: "Latitude 37 degrees and 56 minutes North, on the 83rd meridian of longitude or very close to it," the location of the richest veins.

They continued to revisit the mines and to hide treasure until October 19, 1769. To date the mines have not been rediscovered, and this fact is the most hopeful feature of the quest from the point of view of those who are still looking.

Perhaps the most interesting entry in the journal, so far as the antiquarian is concerned, is not connected in any way with silver. A few days after October 12, 1763, according to the journal: "We went through Cassell's Woods, and stopped with Cassellman's for five days." This may be the first recorded reference to Castle's Woods.

The Antiquarian solicits your earliest recollections.

—THE ANTIQUARIAN.

JOHN BARLEYCORN GETS DEATH BLOW

Announce Marked Improvement All Over the State

Richmond, Va., July 22.—Harry B. Smith, State Commissioner of Prohibition, in announcing the activities of his department for the past four months, today expressed his gratification at what he regarded as "a marked improvement all over the State". Not only is the total of whiskey and stills captured, violators arrested and illicit property destroyed during the period indicated in the report greater than in any previous summary of operations for a like time, but Commissioner Smith stressed the fact that the temperance of the public at large appeared to him to have materially altered. Officers of the law in various localities are working in greater harmony with the state prohibition forces, and citizens are coming forward more boldly and in greater numbers to place valuable information in the hands of inspectors. Even in the courts, said the Commissioner, a different atmosphere is encouraged. It has now become a not uncommon occurrence, according to Commissioner Smith, for judges on the bench to recommend to the jury that a maximum penalty be inflicted where an indictment is sustained. The bootlegger is apparently rapidly losing caste.

The following captures for the past four months were today announced by the State Department of Prohibition:

"Moonshine" whiskey taken and destroyed, 3,234 gallons; 200 violators arrested; 182 stills and 17 automobiles seized; 102,975 gallons of "mash" destroyed, with other property seized and destroyed at stills of an estimated value of \$56,643.

The "mash" captured and destroyed, said the Commissioner, would, if converted into ardent spirits, have possessed a present "bootleg" value of \$62,000.

The department now has regular inspectors in the field.

RUSSELL COUNTY STARTS FINE HEALTH PROGRAM

Lebanon, Va., July 22.—Without a single negative vote, the board of supervisors of Russell county decided to start a comprehensive piece of public health work for their territory. Some time ago this county refused to engage a sanitary officer because the board felt that if the work was worth doing at all it was worth doing thoroughly.

So a complete health unit will be installed, a full time health officer, a sanitary inspector, a school nurse and possibly a nurse for general public health work. The county will supply half of the sum and the other half will be furnished by the State Board of Health and the International Health Board, each subscribing an equal amount.

It is not often that a county starts with such a complete program. County health work is generally an evolution, with a small beginning and a consistent development. The progressive people of the county are congratulating themselves on the action of the supervisors in going directly for what is needed instead of taking a lot of small bites at the cherry.

Conversion and Its Complications (Everybody's Magazine)

"There lives in my town," a Southern man said, "a country preacher who became aware that he had offended many of his parishioners by advocating the closing of a certain right-of-way the public had been accustomed to use; but the preacher never knew how seriously he offended them until he had a talk with a person who had 'got religion' at a revival meeting held some time before."

"You want to know exactly what the folks up my way are saying of you?" asked the parishioner.

"Yes."

"I am sorry that I can't oblige you," was the response. "It's a pity you didn't ask me before I got converted."

Trouble seldom bothers the person who is not looking for it.

TWO CENT STAMP WILL CARRY LETTER TO MANY COUNTRIES

Extension of Two-Cent Rate To So Many Lands is Saving American Business Men Much Money

Washington, July 22.—The little two-cent postage stamp, representing in service probably the biggest value obtainable for the money, has extended its field of usefulness. It now will carry a one-ounce letter to any postoffice in half a hundred foreign countries in addition to any one of the more than 50,000 postoffices in the United States, the many more in Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, and American possessions overseas. The extension of the two-cent rate to so many foreign lands is saving Americans, particularly business men, thousands of dollars annually in foreign postage, assisting and extending American foreign trade, and, Government officials believe is tending to cultivate more friendly relations with foreign peoples.

The two-cent rate was put into effect near the close of last year to Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Martinique. On March 1 this year Bermuda and Haiti were added to the list of foreign countries. Many Americans it is believed still use a five-cent stamp in sending letters to a number of the foreign countries where the two-cent rate prevails.

These countries now include: Alaska, Anguilla, Antigua, Argentina, Bahama Islands, Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bon Ayre, Brazil, British Guiana, British Honduras, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Canal Zone, Dutch West Indies, Ecuador, England, Grenada, The Grenadines, Guam, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, Ireland, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nevis, Newfoundland, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Porto Rico, Redonda, St. Kitts, Shanghai, China, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Scotland, Tobago, Tuvalu, Samoa; Trinidad, Virgin Islands of U. S., Western Samoa, Windward Islands.

Postal officials have no complete statistics showing to what extent the two-cent rate has stimulated foreign correspondence. Some slight indication is given in figures relating to letter mail to Bermuda, to which British colony the two-cent rate was extended March 1. During that month 2,416 pounds of American letters were sent forward to Bermuda. Assuming, for purposes of comparison, they each weigh one ounce that quantity would represent 38,656 letters. At the two-cent rate they cost \$772.12 in postage, while at the five-cent rate they would have cost \$1,932.80. There was a saving of \$1,159.68 in postage, therefore. In March last year 1,892 pounds of American letters went to Bermuda.

DODGE BROTHERS COUPE

You will realize, the moment you see this coupe, how perfectly it fulfills a very real need.

It was designed and built by Dodge Brothers in response to that need—long-standing and often expressed by people in all parts of the world.

With Dodge Brothers chassis as a starting point, it only remained to create a coupe body which would unite the usual coupe refinements with greater lightness, hardihood and economy.

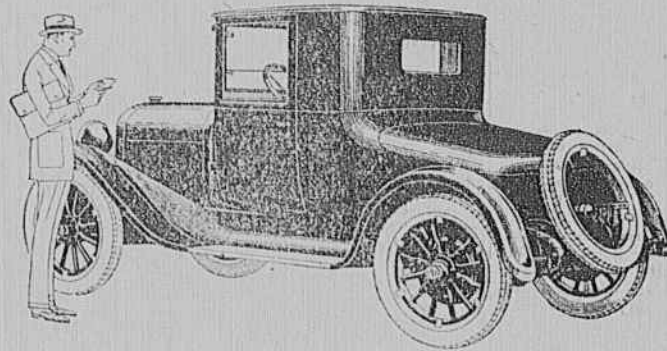
The world now knows how this was accomplished. An entirely new precedent in closed car construction was established. The body is built of steel.

Moreover, the deep comfortable seat is upholstered in genuine leather. The doors are exceptionally wide. The rear compartment will hold a small steamer trunk and other luggage. The enamel, baked on the steel at high temperature is readily restored, after hard usage, to its original lustre.

In every detail the car reflects the purpose of the builders—to make it a practical car of universal appeal.

LONG'S GARAGE

BIG STONE GAP, VA.



They would represent 30,272 on the same basis of 8,382 fewer letters than sent in March this year, when the two-cent rate was in effect.

Blink: "What kind of a fellow is Jones?"

Blank: "Well, he is one of those fellows who always grab the stool when there's a piano to be moved."

—Prairie Farmer.

R. B. McGECKIN ARCHITECT

P. O. Box 214 Big Stone Gap, Va.

COOL - SERVICEABLE - ATTRACTIVE

Dress
Goods

Women in Summer

Under-
wear

desires cool raiment—something neat, tasty, durable, but airy. Without this the hot days become oppressive and life at times almost a burden.

Our summer goods are designed to fill every requirement in this respect. They cannot be duplicated for less money. They are not often equaled for the same money. In offering them to you we are giving you the best that your money can buy at a price that will prove satisfactory to you.

Cohen's Department Store

"The Store of Quality"

NORTON, - VIRGINIA

Ready
to
Wear

Notions
Etc.